

00566 **Research Outreach and Project Matching (ROPM) Programme to Support Undergraduate Research Among Medical Students at the National University of Singapore (NUS)**

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Aims: Into its third year, the Research Outreach and Project Matching (ROPM) programme was established in 2016 as a platform for undergraduate Medical students of the National University of Singapore to seek research opportunities. Jointly organised by the Wong Hock Boon Society and NUS Medical Society Research Directorate, it has served to encourage research outreach among undergraduate students. In this study, we aim to observe and respond to trends in student preferences, aiding institutions in enhancing the quality and quantity of undergraduate research.

Methodology: Every month, the ROPM invites several healthcare institutions in Singapore to offer projects catered at the undergraduate level to NUS Medicine students. The study reviews project statistics across 28 months from February 2016 to May 2018 using Excel. The projects reviewed are offered by our 5 major tertiary hospitals, NUH, SGH, CGH, NTFGH, KTPH.

Result: Across the 28 months of ROPM, the academic year with the highest number of applicants is year 3, increasing from 37.4% to 38.1% of all applicants. Year 1 students have also increased from 14.1% to 33.3% from the first to the fourth segment. The application rate for projects has increased from 54.2% in the first segment to 61.9% in the fourth segment. In the first two segments, Surgery had the greatest number of projects offered at 23.3%, followed by Renal Medicine with 11.0%, and Dermatology and Pharmacology with 9.88% each. In addition, an increase in projects offered from Neurology was noted, increasing to 1.3% of all total projects. Other departments met with strong interest include Microbiology and Immunology, Renal Medicine, Pharmacology and Psychiatry. The most preferred project type was Medical Research, while Data analysis saw the greatest increase in demand.

Conclusion: It is significant to note that with the increase in diversity of projects, further alignment to student preferences should be considered.